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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 14, Number 12

December 1989

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

WNET CAUGHT RED-HANDED --Red-faced *WNET* [New Jersey] officials admit a news show used one of its own cameramen to pose as a bar patron in a documentary about Irish-Americans and the IRA.

An Irish organization has called the scene an "ethnic slur" and been generally critical since Channel 13's *Eleventh Hour* aired a piece last month on Joseph Doherty.

In the opening scene that takes place in O'Lunney's on Second Ave., a man is seen lugging a stein upstairs to an Irish gathering seeking political asylum for Doherty, a wanted IRA member who's been in U.S. custody since 1983.

The National Committee for Joseph Doherty wrote *WNET* President William F. Baker that there was "intent to depict the people at the gathering as a stereotypical group of Irish drunks."

"Part of the allegation is regrettably accurate," Arnold Labaton, senior vice president and director of the production center at *WNET*, confided to [Daily News column] Sauce's Barbara Lippman.

Labaton said the show wanted to establish location, so it filmed a technician with the drink: "His appearance was in violation of our broadcasting procedure. We did not mean to imply that people were drinking at this meeting." He insisted there was nothing to indicate what was in the glass. (Daily News, 10/9/89) *The PEC wonders if the technician and the person responsible for his assignment were fired? (address: William F. Baker, President. WNET, 356 W 58 St., New York, NY 10019)*

"All officers at Ballykinlar UDR base had complete access to confidential files and videos on local nationalists...Documents include one which was lost at the UDR base in South Down containing a photographic montage of nine local nationalists with their names and addresses...Ballykinlar UDR base is an important intelligence gathering center...Videotapes have been shot tracing the movements of nationalists in Belfast and South Down. Tapes were shown to UDR soldiers...No videos are taken on loyalists. Intelligence documents on loyalists are not shown to the UDR...When documents are updated at military bases like Ballykinlar, old ones can be taken home by UDR members. UDR soldiers are expected to memorize the names, addresses, and faces and are then questioned by officers about people shown on the tapes. (Irish News, 9/11/89)

Mr. Labhras O Murchu, National Chairman of the Pearse Foundation, predicted that a British withdrawal from Ireland is inevitable and the only consideration is when and in what circumstances. Britain's involvement in Irish affairs with its attendant military excesses and denial of human rights will be an increasing embarrassment in Europe. "Partition of Ireland will be an obstacle to full and unambiguous unity in Europe."

Continued on page four

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE APPEARS
ON PAGE 6 JUST BELOW YOUR ADDRESS
LABEL.**

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

OHIO - Kathy Whitford, PEC Ohio State Director, informs us that, due to the recent meeting with Fr. Des Wilson, Chairman H. Cooper Snyder of the Senate Education and Retirement Committee has agreed to refer the Senate MacBride Principles Bill (SB #34) to the Pension Study Commission for consideration. Positive recommendations from this commission are necessary for the bill's passage. **Members residing in Ohio state are asked to write to Senator Snyder at Ohio State Senate, State House, Columbus, OH 43215** urging that he support SB #34 and that he bring it out to the Senate floor for a vote. The House Bill (HB 660), introduced by Rep. Don Troy, has been assigned to the House Health and Retirement Committee chaired by Rep. Paul Jones. There are eleven co-sponsors. A similar bill passed in the House during the 1988 legislative session but died because no action was taken in the Senate. **Sandy Carlson, PEC Student Activities Coordinator, reports the PEC's student campaign is well under way with students at Lourdes College, Cornell University, and the University of Louisville involved in MacBride Principles campaigns at their schools.** Students are urged to get their colleges involved. For an information kit on how to begin a college campaign, contact Sandy Carlson at 23 Court Street, New Haven, CT. 06511

NEW APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CONSULTANT -- The American Irish PEC has appointed Tom O'Flaherty, New Hampshire State Director, as PEC National MacBride Principles Consultant.

If you have any questions pertaining to the MacBride Principles or a MacBride Principles campaign, other than just an explanation of what the principles are, please contact Tom O'Flaherty - (603) 528-5733.

TEXAS STATE DIRECTOR -- We are happy to announce the appointment of Marilyn Arnodo as PEC State Director for Texas. Marilyn's address and phone # are: 601 W 17th #2, Houston, Tx 77008 -- (713) 869-8159. We urge all members residing in Texas to contact her. Marilyn wants to begin organizing a state-wide action network to carry out in Texas the programs of the PEC.

ACTION REQUEST # 2

Offensive Situations by Kevin Murphy

Judge James McCann of Detroit has informed us of an article that appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* on September 29. The movie review in that paper highlighted the movie, *Johnny Handsome* which stars American Irish actor Mickey Rourke. The review by *Detroit Free Press* movie critic Kathy Huffhines said the following, "...talk about hard luck. Other guys would emerge from plastic surgery as Tom Cruise, but nooooo! Johnny emerges with Rourke's **lumpy Irish potato face**". The movie is about a New Orleans man who undergoes plastic surgery. Huffhines demonstrates her ignorance and ethnic intolerance in the article.

Course of Action: Write: Editor, Detroit Free Press, 321 West Lafayette, Detroit, Mi 48231 - phone # 313 222-6400. Let them know that you do not appreciate the paper's anti-American Irish attitude as demonstrated by Huffhines in her review.

A review of the Pogues' Boston Opera House show by *Boston*

RAFFLE WINNER

The winner of the PEC's raffle of two round-trip tickets to Ireland is **Maureen O'Looney** of Chicago, Illinois. The winning tickets were drawn on September 30 at the PEC's Annual Testimonial Dinner.

Herald music critic **Karen Schlosberg** commented on Pogues lead singer **Shane MacGowan's** drinking of a glass of beer at the Boston event. Schlosberg stated, "Shane MacGowan's drunken sloppiness sadly reinforced the unfair stereotype of Irish creativity being rooted in whiskey induced melancholia". Of course during the same time period. **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

(Ed. Note: Kevin Murphy has asked that we give special thanks to all of you who have sent him news of offensive situations. Your sacrifice has certainly done a lot to increase public awareness and to rectify many negative situations. Due to the volume of mail received by Kevin Murphy, it is just impossible for him to answer all the letters. He assures us that every letter is read and appreciated.)

ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO KEVIN P. MURPHY, PO BOX 8895 - J F KENNEDY STATION, BOSTON, MA. 02114.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, 23 Court Street, New Haven CONNECTICUT, 06510-(203)789-0070

Supported in part by the Emerald Society, NYC Fire Department.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is easy for informed Americans to believe "everybody knows that" when some point of Irish history or current events is raised. Our knowledge becomes so second-nature to us that we forget how many other Americans do not understand our concerns.

Most Americans, including most American Irish, do not know of the Plantation of Ulster, the Great Hunger, and other British persecutions of the native Irish. Consequently, they do not know that the roots of the present conflict are hundreds of years old. They are not aware of the need for the MacBride Principles or the injustice of the Joe Doherty case.

The public does not understand the obstacles we face. Propaganda paints us as supporters of terrorism and biased media coverage thus effectively closing people's minds to our views.

Education is the key to support. Our issues are legitimate; Americans would be sympathetic if they knew the truth -- religious discrimination is unacceptable -- killing innocent children is anathema -- loss of civil and human rights is outrageous.

Take every opportunity to speak out. Encourage people to question the media. Do not be afraid to publicize our concerns. We are the means by which a slanted media can be challenged.

The American Irish Political Education Committee's (PEC) Reproduce and Distribute campaign has been proven highly effective in reaching people. MacBride Principles flyers at social affairs may cause someone to question whether the Principles are a tool of the IRA, as the media suggests, or if the Principles are really a legitimate attempt to correct an age-old problem.

Interest in things Irish is growing. Americans are studying the language, music, and history of Ireland. Many of the PEC's newest members are third- and fourth-generation Irish. In addition, some members are not at all Irish but simply recognize the responsibility to work on behalf of Irish human and civil rights. A few well-placed words or articles may be the means by which American Irish awareness flourishes.

MAKE THE PEC STRONG & EFFECTIVE !!!

- Join our letter-writing campaigns
- Send a donation today
- Recruit new members

FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, *Belfast, NI, Director of Conway Mill*

Northern Ireland Secretary of State Peter Brooke has made two important admissions: that the British Army cannot defeat the IRA and that there is a possibility of talks with Sinn Fein if the IRA calls a cease fire.

There is nothing new in the first admission. British military commanders have been admitting that they can't defeat the IRA since the late seventies. The other admission caused some heartache among unionists and left wing groups, some of whom had believed the British government when it said it would not talk to "terrorists or supporters of terrorists", meaning republicans.

The statement seems designed to split the republican movement in the hope that enough of them would favor a cessation of military action, in return for talks, to make it worthwhile for the British to make the suggestion. However, the republican response will probably be similar to that of the African National Congress when they were faced with a similar proposal -- let us have talks first and in those talks we can discuss whether there will be a cessation of military actions or not.

The British government is already engaged in working out a deal with civil servants in the South. Testing the ground for a new initiative, they arrested about 37 Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) members most of whom live in East Belfast. The exercise was almost certainly meant to test loyalist reaction to any attempt to clean up the unofficial assassination squads operating within the military and police. East Belfast is heavily loyalist. Loyalist reaction to the arrests was weak and the British government having found out what it wanted to know, released the UDR members either completely or on bail with trivial charges.

That a new deal is on the way is virtually certain. Opening the way for public acceptance of talks with Sinn Fein, splitting the unionists and even the SDLP with the entry of the Conservative Party into the political arena in the North of Ireland, the appointment of companions Brian Lenihan and Tom King to Defense Ministries in Ireland and Britain, the clean up of overt assassination groups in the British forces operating in the North, all point in that one direction.

It is likely that the departure of PM Margaret Thatcher from the British government leadership will open the way to a more sane view of British/Irish relations, if there is anyone in the British administration capable of thinking that way.

The response of Charles Haughey, Prime Minister in the South -- probably prearranged -- is a further indication of change. He has welcomed the possibility of talks with Sinn

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

We remind you that your help is needed in educating the public. In each issue of the Newsletter we will publish articles marked *Reproduce and Distribute*. This issue's article is titled *Undue Process*.

You are asked to save and to make copies of these articles. Send them to people you feel should have them; clergy (all religions), union officials, politicians (your US Senators and Congressman and local and state legislators), interested friends, etc. It is also important that you send them to local TV, radio and newspaper "news editors". This action will greatly enhance our "media education campaign". Do not send too much information as people will probably put it aside. Just one article at a time, unless asked for more.

Develop a small list of pertinent people, e.g. your US Congressman and Senators, local news editors and clergy. Monthly send them the appropriate article from the Newsletter.

We further suggest that you distribute these materials at public functions (Irish and non-Irish). This activity will not only help educate the public, but will also help increase membership in the American Irish PEC.

STATE DEPARTMENT MEETING OFF

The U.S. State Department cancelled its October 26 meeting with the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations. The Council consists of the Presidents of the American Irish Congress, American Irish Political Education Committee, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehon Law Society, Irish American Labor Coalition, Irish American Unity Conference, Irish Northern Aid and the Knights of Equity.

A State Department spokesperson said the meeting was cancelled because of a statement that appeared in the *Irish News* on October 9. The statement, attributed to Mike Cummings of the AOH, stated the State Department would be meeting with leaders of Noraid. The State Department will not meet with the Council with Noraid representatives present. The Council which still seeks a meeting, is of the opinion that direct communications with the State Department is necessary if we are to have input in our Government's Irish policy.

Fein and with unionists and anyone else who will talk with Dublin. Meanwhile, Dr. Mawhinney has laid down a propaganda line in the United States via the Washington and New York press that politicians are already talking which is not the case, and that we are entering a new era of prosperity and light.

We are certainly entering something.

It seems that the British are hoping for a cessation of republican military activity and talks leading to a devolved government with the help of the republicans (*with the promise of ultimate reunification*). The bait of a new partition leading to unification in the future is hardly likely to appeal to republicans, but is at the moment all the British government is likely to propose.

It would, of course, suit the Southern political parties admirably.

WOMEN LEADERS FROM IRELAND

by Margaret E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

In the 19th century, Irish women religious answered the call to missions in the United States. From the crowded eastern cities to the western Indian territories, dedicated sisters established hospitals, schools, orphanages, and new congregations. They served as nurses in war torn areas and staffed missions in sparsely populated places.

The Irish sisters followed the footsteps of earlier French and Spanish nuns who brought religion, charity, and civilization to Peru, Louisiana, and Canada. There were some Irish exiles among these Europeans, but the Irish women who escaped to the continent to enter convents in the 17th and 18th century Penal Days, sublimated their identities among their adopted foreign sisters. At last permitted to embrace religious life openly in the 19th century, Irish sisters again chose exile to serve God. They brought to America the light of faith that centuries of persecution could not extinguish in Ireland.

Although their achievements were known widely, their names were often shrouded in anonymity. Each religious order had a policy of disciplined group teamwork rather than one of individual star players. Yet some stars shone through.

One of the first was Mother Teresa Lalor. She emigrated in 1794 and formed a religious community in Philadelphia. With twin objectives of contemplation and education work, she opened a school in Georgetown in 1799 and founded the American branch of the Visitation Nuns.

Mother Mary Frances Clarke emigrated in 1833 with her small religious community. In Philadelphia, she founded the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After moving the motherhouse to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1843, she founded Clarke College. During fifty-four years as superior, she established schools from coast to coast.

Sister Julia McGroarty, of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, founded Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and convents nationwide. She established schools to help working women upgrade their skills and groups to help Irish mothers improve their homes.

Mother Mary Irene Fitzgibbon joined the New York Sisters of Charity in 1850. She opened the Foundling Home and Foundling Hospital. She also founded St. Ann's Home for unwed mothers, the Hospital of St. John for children, Nazareth Hospital for convalescent youngsters, and the Seton Hospital for men with tuberculosis.

Sister Anthony O'Connell, of the Sisters of Charity, became a founder of the newly independent Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati in 1852. Serving twice as superior, she founded many hospitals, orphanages, and homes for convalescents and unwed mothers. Her Civil War service in military hospitals earned her the title "Florence Nightingale of America."

Another Sister of Charity, Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, was co-founder of St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. She founded the New Jersey Sisters of Charity in 1859 and the College of St. Elizabeth at Convent Station in 1899.

Mother Mary Baptist Russell, another Sister of Mercy, came to California in 1854 as superior of eight nuns and novices. At the urgent request of the San Francisco mayor, she took charge

of public hospitals during the cholera epidemic of 1855. Attacked by bigots who demanded that the Sisters dress in lay apparel, Mother Mary Baptist responded by founding St. Mary's, the first Catholic hospital on the West Coast. She opened night schools for workers, refuges for the homeless and aged, and orphanages and schools for children.

Mother Mary Ann Sammon entered the Sisters of St. Dominic. She founded the Blauvelt Congregation of the Dominicans in 1878 and brought many Irish postulants to the German order. As superior and prioress, she established and staffed many educational and charitable institutions.

Mother Margaret Bridget Hayden emigrated with her parents from Kilkenny to Missouri. She joined the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross in 1841. As superior she developed a basic U.S. government Indian mission school into a model educational institution in the southwest.

The path of Mother Margaret Mary Healy Murphy in the American south included marriage and then widowhood. Continuing charitable service begun during the Civil War, she founded the Sisters of the Holy Ghost (now Sisters of the Holy Spirit) in Texas. Her trips to Ireland to recruit members were so successful that her order became known as the "Irish Holy Ghosts."

Mother Marie Joseph Butler served the French Order of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in France and Portugal before coming to the United States in 1893. With her RSHM's becoming better known under their Marymount name, Mother Butler founded schools and colleges not only throughout America, but also in Ireland, Canada, Europe, and South America. Like the earlier colleges of Trinity and St. Elizabeth, the Marymounts had predominantly Irish students and staff.

This is only a sampling of the heroic but humble Irish women who were founders, administrators, and leaders of the great religious and charitable institutions of the United States. To these could be added countless others who were not only Irish-born but also American-born children of Irish immigrants.

News Bits continued from page one

(The Examiner, 9/11/89)... "Police and political circles in South Wales are alarmed by the appointment of a top Northern Ireland policeman as the area's new Deputy Chief Constable. Meibion Glyndwr and other "Wales for the Welsh" sympathizers believe that it represents another step in the trend towards RUC style policing of Welsh nationalists in their country and cite the recent police admission that they bugged a van belonging to a Meibion party member as a part of 'ongoing operation' against the actions of Meibion Glyndwr... There are growing fears among the Irish in Wales that police surveillance under the terms of the PTA are more and more coming under the control of former British soldiers recruited on the strength of their experiences in Northern Ireland." (Irish Post, 9/9/89)... **Only 23% of adult people in the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, now support British troops being in Northern Ireland.** (Sunday Press, 8/20/89. Interestingly enough our State Department supports British troops in Northern Ireland against the democratic wishes of a large majority of British citizens.

ATTENTION MACBRIDE ACTIVISTS

THE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL: Who They Are And What They Are Saying About The MacBride Principles.

By Tom O'Flaherty JNR

One of the more vocal domestic critics of MacBride legislation has been *The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)*. They release position papers on a variety of issues under legislative consideration and for the past two years have published issue analyses that have been unfavorable about MacBride legislation. In 1988 they published an executive summary and in 1989 they released an update.

According to Mike Tanner of ALEC, "We look at ourselves as a partnership between legislators and the private sector. We stand for limited government, free enterprise and individual liberty". Legislators have a number of organizations that are available to them such as *The National Conference Of State Legislators* which they automatically join when elected to state government. ALEC is a group you choose to join and pay membership fees to belong to.

The information on MacBride was researched and written by Timothy Beauchemin who is director of ALEC'S Task Force On Trade And Economic Development. This report has been issued, "for educational purposes". One notes that at the end of the executive summary from 1988 that: "The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of ALEC, its officers or members".

Their commentaries on MacBride gives you the feeling that they have been receiving information from one side of the issue only. Tim Beauchemin had talked to the British government's information office and the United States Department of State. Under questioning it was apparent that he had not been presented with an opposing viewpoint that offered credible evidence to refute statements made by public relations officers at the Department and Consular level. He did not contact such expert sources as the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, Kevin McNamara, MP, of the British Labour Party nor Dr. Christopher McCrudden, one of Europe's leading experts on anti-discrimination.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT MACBRIDE? "The issue of requiring companies with investments in Northern Ireland to adhere to the 'MacBride Principles' is the new state level foreign policy standard of the Liberal Movement". They are capitalizing on "the 'L' word" phobia and stating that it is a foreign policy issue. This incidently is the first line of defense of the British Information Service. They constantly refer to the reduction of foreign investment because of MacBride and the "detrimental effect on the soundness and stability of the pension funds". **There has never been any credible evidence to support either of these statements.** They are quick to reference that Sean MacBride was "The former Chief Of Staff of the IRA" but neglect to mention that he was also Undersecretary of the United Nations and the founder of Amnesty International. They structure a bias with their omissions and the unknowing legislator can readily succumb to this.

They trivialize the MacBride Principles by claiming that it is

an "expensive and time consuming legal hassle to determine compliance".

The tired argument of contravention of British law is once again brought forth: "Finally, and most importantly, enforcement of several of the principles could conflict with current British law..." This is the same comment made by the U.S. State Department: "...We have concluded that adherence to some of the principles could be a contravention of UK law..." The principles in question being 1, 7 and 8 have been supported in court in a ruling, **NEW YORK CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM V. AMERICAN BRANDS [NO. 86 CIV 3188 (RLC) U.S. DISTRICT COURT NYC 12 MAY 1986. [2]** "Plaintiff has made a strong showing of the likelihood of success on the merits -- that upon full trial it could prove that all nine of the principles could be legally implemented by management in it's Northern Ireland factory."

They end their analysis of MacBride by again using the threat of economic ruin that would result from divestment and withdrawal as a result of adherence to the nine principles. They also provide a question and answer section which presents loaded and biased questions with misstated and misinformed answers.

ALEC sponsors events around the country and interestingly enough they had a breakfast for New Hampshire state legislators the morning before the Senate Committee hearing on MacBride. According to Mike Tanner of ALEC, this was just a coincidence. It was no coincidence that two foreign agents of the British government opposed to the bill spoke to the attendees. Both of them, Sean Neeson and Dominic Allen, testified the following day at the Senate Hearing.

If you are confronted with the opinions of ALEC, you can counter their publications by offering the proxy issues report of the Washington, DC based *Investor Responsibility Research Center Inc.* This thorough and objectively researched analysis offers an extensive history of Northern Ireland and a full discussion on the MacBride Principles themselves. Their position is clear and to the point:

"If a U.S. company were to adopt the MacBride Principles it would send a strong signal of it's concern over religious discriminatin in employment in Northern Ireland, both anti-Catholic and anti-Protestant, both to the British government and to other multinational and locally owned companies in Northern Ireland".

"A fair employment code rigorously enforced by U.S. companies could have a modest impact on the human rights situation in Northern Ireland by helping to improve the lot of the disadvantaged community and by providing more contact between the communities through better integrated work forces".

(Ed. Note: Neither Sean Neeson nor Dominic Allen had registered as lobbyists in New Hampshire, which they were required to do by law, until confronted by PEC MacBride Principles National Consultant and lobbyist Tom O'Flaherty, and then only Neeson complied. The Secretary of State has informed the State Attorney General's office of Mr. Allen's lack of compliance. Further investigation reveals that both of these agents are required to register as agents of a foreign government under provisions of The Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 as amended but have not done so.)

UNDUE PROCESS

An American's Political Persecution

by Dr. Francis J. Forster

My name is Francis J. Forster. I am a doctor of medicine. I was born in Ireland, in 1928. I was educated at Rockwell College, Cashel, and graduated from University College, Dublin, in 1954. For eleven years I practiced medicine in England, including two years as a draftee with the British Army in Germany, before I emigrated to America in 1965. Since 1967, I have practiced medicine in Santa Barbara. I am a member of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, A Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

On January 18, 1983, an extraordinary event took place. Seven armed men from the narcotics division of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department broke into my medical office and tore the place asunder. They assaulted my wife. They put me in handcuffs and then transported me to jail. Bail was set for \$25,000. The charges alleged that on 18 occasions during the preceding 2 1/2 years I had improperly prescribed medications to three undercover agents posing as patients. One was from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, and the other two, a bogus man-and-wife team, were agents from the Board of Medical Quality Assurance (BMQA), the body which licenses physicians in California and monitors their practice. That night, I was released on my own recognisance.

My arrest took place just six weeks before Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of England and His Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, were due to visit Santa Barbara as guests of President and Mrs. Reagan.

I think it is significant that for some years previously I had been the leading local advocate of Irish Republicanism, and had spoken at many public gatherings up and down California.

I think it also significant that at the time I lived in Santa Barbara, a notoriously anglophilic town which was then the western retreat of the former President of the United States, and therefore, the de facto White House.

At my arraignment on February 10, 1983, 400 supporters crowded into the Municipal Courthouse, bringing all legal proceedings to a halt and forcing the bailiffs to clear the building continuously.

On April 29, 1983, after a nine-day preliminary hearing (the second longest in California's history) all charges against me were dismissed. Ten days later, the District Attorney appealed the judge's ruling, and on July 29, 1983, a Superior Court judge upheld the lower court's decision and again dismissed all charges.

On September 29, 1983, the District Attorney appealed the second judge's decision to the State Appellate Court.

Then a year went by, and in September 1984, the Appellate Court returned the case to the Superior Court judge, ordering him to reinstate the charges. This was on the technical grounds that the standards he had applied when ruling on the lower court's decision fourteen months previously were now out of date. They had been supplanted by new standards which were now to be applied retroactively in my case. The logic and parity of that decision still eludes me.

And so, on December 21, 1984, Superior Court Judge Ronald

Reproduce and Distribute

Stevens reluctantly returned the case to Municipal Court, but not before making the following comment: "This case continues to disturb me. I should think by now the prosecution must realize that it will never get a guilty verdict on this case."

Then, on February 15, 1985, nearly 22 months after my first dismissal by the same magistrate, Judge Frank Ochoa, Jr., made findings-of-fact in my case and again dismissed all charges. Finally, on March 4, 1985, the D.A. of Santa Barbara County dropped all charges against me. I was again a free man.

But the price of that freedom has been high, and my legal battle had devastating consequences. My professional reputation has been tarnished, my family life had been turned topsy-turvy, and my medical practice had been lost.

On November 18, 1983, realizing that my medical practice could no longer withstand the legal insults of the year with all the attendant bad publicity, I closed the door of my office for the last time and sadly bade my patients farewell.

Since January, 1984, I have worked at a state mental hospital. However, because it lies some 125 miles away from my home, Maidie and I are separated for five days in the week--and that, after 34 years of marriage, is not easy to get used to. I do not think we will ever get used to the pre-dawn Monday morning farewells. (*The Forsters have since moved to his job location*).

On October 21, 1985, Maidie and I filed two suits in Federal Court for \$10 million each. One was against the County of Santa Barbara, and the other was against the State BMQA. I charged both agencies with false arrest and imprisonment, absence of probable cause, malicious prosecution, and violation of my civil rights. On February 4, 1988, the County of Santa Barbara offered to settle the whole matter out-of-court if I would accept the sum of \$50,000.

On March 1, 1988, Judge Kenyon granted the defense motion for summary judgment and dismissed all charges against the defendants. On July 18, 1988, the Attorney General's office stated it would drop its proceedings against me if I would agree not to appeal Judge Kenyon's decision. My attorney said no. The Attorney General's office stated that the BMQA might be prepared to drop the case if I would undertake never to mention that fact before a jury. My attorney said no.

In August 1988, Judge Kenyon rejected our motion to reconsider, and finally, on January 17, 1989, Richard Frishman appealed the judge's decision to the 9th U.S. District Court of Appeals.

UNDUE PROCESS by Dr. Frank Forster, a detailed account of his experiences, is available through the American Irish Awareness Committee at \$9.25 + \$2.50 P&H. Order # B921 - paperback, 177 pp

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UPDATE ON JOE DOHERTY

by Albert R. Doyle

On October 27, Joe Doherty's attorneys, Mary Pike and Steven Somerstein, filed a 100-page brief with the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York seeking to reverse on constitutional grounds two remarkable orders of Attorneys General Meese and Thornburgh which had overturned Immigration Court decisions in Joe's favor. The brief is only the latest skirmish in a protracted legal war in which our government, acting openly as the agent for Thatcher's British government, has pursued Joe Doherty with unprecedented legal and political zeal.

Lest there be any doubt that this pursuit has been unusual, consider that at various stages the U.S. government has done the following: appealed Court decisions which were not appealable under law (and been criticized for so doing by the Appeals Court); put forth arguments never before made in similar cases (and been slapped down by the Appeals Court for so doing); opposed in Court the request of a deportee (Joe) to be deported to the country of his designation (never before done); held a prisoner in custody without bail for what is probably the longest period of pre-trial detention in American history; and lastly, as losing party in a litigation, decided on purely political grounds not to follow the judicial decision against their position.

In their desire to be seen as opposing what they (and Margaret Thatcher) see as "terrorism", these U.S. government officials have sullied our court system, our Constitution, and our political heritage. Joe is in jeopardy. A decision against him now could result in his being whisked away to that wonderful legal system

GUILDFORD FOUR FINALLY RELEASED

Four innocent people convicted in 1974 of the bombings of the Guildford and Woolwich pubs in Britain have finally been released. They have spent 15 years in prison based on convictions that are now admitted to have been made under questionable circumstances. New evidence shows that five of the twelve police officers who questioned the four lied at the original trial. The four victims of the British system of justice are Paul Hill, Gerard Conlon, Patrick Armstrong and Carole Richardson.

The release of the four is the result of pressure from within Britain. Strong support for the Guildford Four came from prominent British political and religious leaders and British citizens. Similar pressure has mounted against the British legal system urging the release of the Birmingham Six and the Winchester Three who are also imprisoned under questionable circumstances.

(Ed. Note: In the January, 1990 issue of the American Irish Newsletter we will publish an update on the Birmingham Six and what you can do to help them.)

that gave us the Guilford Four case and many more like it. The good news is that Joe's case is now starting to get attention. Resolution 62 has now been signed by over ninety Senators and Congressmen. The Resolution calls simply for Joe to be granted bail and to be given a hearing on his request for political asylum. Please ask your Senators and Congresspersons to join this action. Addresses are: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.
Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

DAMNED ENGLISHMAN By Tom Cox

Erskine Childers, skipper of the historic Asgard is renowned for his novel *The Riddle of the Sands*, but less well-known as the activist who, with his disabled wife, ran into Howth guns for the insurgents of Ireland's 'Easter Week'.

Yet many will insist that his fame should more fittingly be based on his efforts on behalf of the nascent Irish Republic. These included his publicity exposing the 'Black and Tan' outrages; his performance as senior secretary to the Irish Delegation at the Anglo-Irish (London) Conference of 1921; his disapproval of the pact that climaxed that Conference and has set the pattern for Anglo-Irish political affairs ever since; his continued service to the Republican side in hostilities that followed; and his ultimate capture and firing-squad execution by the Free State authorities.

Damned Englishman is a book for readers and researchers concerned with the root causes of the 'Irish Problem', north and south, then and now. Since its publication, Cox has adapted the work for film in the form of a full-length screenplay. Hardcover, 374pp

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THE IRISH RACE IN AMERICA
 By Edward O'Meagher Condon

Written in 1887, it is as timely today as it was when first published. Covering the period from the discovery of America to the American Civil War, Condon tells the exciting story of an adventurous people seeking freedom in a new land. Rich characterization, analytical detachment and an intimate narrative style makes this work immensely readable. This is America and the Irish at their best. A must for every member of the family - guaranteed to make every American Irish aware and proud of the role of the Irish in America. Paperback, 325 pp

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MOTHER IRELAND (VIDEO)
 Produced by Derry Film & Video

Women, with very few exceptions, have been written out of the national struggle in Ireland. We talk to many women, young and old republican women who fought for Mother Ireland, and several Irish women who apply a strong feminist perspective to their lives and work.

Mother Ireland explores the development and use of images and music which personify Ireland as a woman in Irish culture and nationalism.

With historical film, photographs, political drawings, cartoons and music we discover the unrecorded role of women in Irish history and we present realistic images of Irish women today. 52 minutes, VHS only

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ACTION REQUEST #1

We continue our campaign to end censorship and biased reporting by the news media. **Letters to the media are of vital importance.** Our letters are putting the media on notice that people from across the United States are interested in the plight of Irish nationalists in Northern Ireland and want unbiased news coverage. Many thousands of correspondences have already been received by the major electronic and printed news networks. If they persist in not complying with the request of many Americans, we will have proven our case of censorship. More importantly, continued pressure from the public will force them to end biased reporting and censorship.

From time to time we will ask members to write a repeat letter to the media we have already targetted through our Action Request program. Also, through our ongoing Membership-By-Mail campaigns, we will include pre-addressed post cards to the media. We will continue and intensify this campaign until we are successful. We have found that ongoing campaigns (more than one letter) are much more effective. So please, continue to comply with all Action Request even though you have already written to the targetted media.

COURSE OF ACTION: Write or call both individuals below. It is preferred that you write the letters in your own words using our letter below as a guide. If this is not feasible, simply rewrite our letter below as is. Have your friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. do the same. (Some of you should mention that you are a member of the American Irish PEC.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO LOBBY CONGRESS

The PEC needs members to lobby our US Congressional Representatives in their home districts and in Washington. Experience is not necessary as we will provide instruction. Volunteers should contact the American Irish PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY, or call (914) 947-2726.

Sample Letter

Mr. Bruce Christensen President Public Broadcasting Service 1320 Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314 (Phone # 703 739-5000)	Mr. Rooney Arledge President ABC News 47 W 66 Street New York, NY 10023 (Phone # 212 456-7777)
Address & Date	

Dear Mr. _____:
I am very concerned that your network's news programs have not covered the plight of Joe Doherty, the release of the Guildford Four, or the collusion between Britain's Ulster Defense Regiment and RUC in the murder of Irish nationalists in Northern Ireland. I am concerned that this omission reflects a pro-British bias or even censorship on the part of your network. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
signature

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